

Serial No. 09/847,321

Amdt. Dated: March 15, 2005

Reply to Office Action of December 16, 2004

Docket No. K-0272

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 has been canceled, claims 2-4, 13 and 16 have been amended, and claims 18 and 19 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 14 and 15 were objected to; claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yalowitz et al. in view of O'Brien; claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yalowitz et al. in view of O'Brien and Wiscombe; claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yalowitz in view of O'Brien and Wiscombe et al.; claims 2-13 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 14 and 15 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections noted in the Office Action and to be independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, claims 2-4 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the rejections noted in the Office Action are moot. Claims 14 and 15 have also been amended to change the preamble as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to claims 14 and 15 be withdrawn.

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In addition, new claims 18 and 19 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicants submit the new claims are supported by the originally filed specification. For example, independent claim 1 is similar to dependent claim 3 rewritten in independent form, but has been drafted in a varying scope. Dependent claim 19 is similar to dependent claim 2. It is respectfully submitted the applied art does not teach or suggest the features recited in new independent claim 18.

Further, the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau**, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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